



Complete Summary

TITLE

Adult low back pain: percentage of patients with acute low back pain receiving anterior-posterior (AP) or lateral (LAT) x-rays.

SOURCE(S)

Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI). Adult low back pain. Bloomington (MN): Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI); 2004 Sep. 63 p. [117 references]

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses the percentage of patients with acute low back pain receiving anterior-posterior (AP) or lateral (LAT) x-rays.

RATIONALE

The priority aim addressed by this measure is to reduce unnecessary imaging studies in patients with acute low back pain.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Acute low back pain; x-ray (anterior-posterior [AP], lateral [LAT])

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Number of patients who first presented to clinic with low back pain within six weeks or less of onset of symptoms (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Number of patients receiving anterior-posterior (AP) or lateral (LAT) x-ray. Include only patients who meet the criteria for the denominator.

Evidence Supporting the Measure

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Not applicable

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE MEASURE

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

NATIONAL GUIDELINE CLEARINGHOUSE LINK

- [Adult low back pain.](#)

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Physician Group Practices/Clinics

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Group Clinical Practices

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Age greater than or equal to 18 years

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Patients who present to the clinic with acute low back pain

Identify patients using diagnosis codes (see the "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field). Patients should be included if the onset of symptoms was six weeks or less.

The medical record of each patient is reviewed to determine if the patient meets any of the exclusion criteria (see the "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field). If none of the exclusions are met, the chart is further reviewed for use of anterior-posterior (AP) or lateral (LAT) x-ray.

The suggested time period is a calendar month.

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Encounter

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Number of patients who first presented to clinic with low back pain within six weeks or less of onset of symptoms*

*Patients who are within 6 weeks of onset of symptoms of low back pain, as identified by the following International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes: 720.1, 721.42, 721.90, 722.6, 724.5, 738.5, 847.2, 721.3, 721.9, 722.52, 722.93, 724.2, 724.3, 738.4, 846.0.

Exclusions

For patients with the following conditions, the anterior-posterior (AP) or lateral (LAT) x-ray may be warranted:

1. Over 50 years old (increased risk of malignancy, compression fracture)
2. Pain at rest (increased incidence of clinically significant pathology)
3. History of cancer (rule out metastatic disease)
4. Fever above 38 degrees C (100.4 degrees F) for greater than 48 hours without obvious cause
5. Neuromotor deficit - progressive or new onset (computed tomography [CT] or magnetic resonance imaging [MRI] may be the preferred study)
6. Serious accident or injury (fall from heights, blunt trauma, motor vehicle accident - this does not include twisting or lifting injury unless other risk factors, e.g., history of osteoporosis, are present)
7. Failure to respond after 6 weeks of conservative therapy
8. Drug or alcohol abuse (increased incidence of osteomyelitis, trauma, fracture)
9. Clinical suspicion of ankylosing spondylitis.

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Number of patients receiving anterior-posterior (AP) or lateral (LAT) x-ray.
Include only patients who meet the criteria for the denominator.

Exclusions

Unspecified

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Encounter or point in time

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data

Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a lower score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Percentage of patients with acute low back pain receiving AP or LAT x-rays.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Adult Low Back Pain Measures](#)

DEVELOPER

Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2003 Sep

REVISION DATE

2004 Sep

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI). Adult low back pain. Bloomington (MN): Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI); 2003 Sep. 63 p.

SOURCE(S)

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MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Percentage of patients with acute low back pain receiving AP or LAT x-rays," is published in "Health Care Guideline: Adult Low Back Pain." This document is available from the [Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement \(ICSI\) Web site](#).

For more information, contact ICSI at, 8009 34th Avenue South, Suite 1200, Bloomington, MN 55425; phone: 952-814-7060; fax: 952-858-9675; Web site: www.icsi.org; e-mail: icsi.info@icsi.org.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on May 4, 2004. This summary was updated by ECRI October 14, 2004.

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